

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 /031 W  
-----028945 121138Z /14

O 121046Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6293  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY  
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
JCS WASHDC PRIORITY  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 SINGAPORE 01745

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

BANGKOK FOR HOLBROOKE AND LONG

E.O. 12065: GDS 2/12/80 (KNEIP, RICHARD F.) OR-M  
TAGS: MILI, PEPR, CB, CH, TH, UR, US, ASEAN  
SUBJECT: HOLBROOKE/LONG MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER  
- RAJARATNAM  
1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE, ADMIRAL  
LONG AND OTHERS MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM  
FEBRUARY 11. RAJA CALLS FOR SUSTAINED IMAGE AND REALITY  
OF A REINVIGORATED USA; BELIEVES THIRD WORLD WOULD MOVE  
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TOWARDS U.S. IF CONVINCED U.S. COMMITMENT TO OPPOSING  
SOVIET EXPANSIONISM. HOLBROOKE AND LONG OUTLINE U.S.  
POLICIES AND PLANS IN INDIAN AND PACIFIC OCEANS AND  
NEW MOOD IN U.S. RAJA CALLS FOR CLEARER PROJECTION OF  
SEPARATE U.S. AND PRC INTERESTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.  
HOLBROOKE STATES UNEQUIVOCAL U.S. OPPOSITION TO BOTH  
DK AND HENG SAMRIN. POSSIBILITY OF U.S.-ASEAN MINISTERIAL-  
LEVEL MEETING DISCUSSED.

3. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE, ACCOMPANIED BY CINCPAC

ADMIRAL LONG, DOD DAS PLATT, AMBASSADORS WOODCOCK AND KNEIP AND POLAD CONNORS MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM AND HIS SENIOR STAFF MEMBERS FEB. 11. HOLBROOKE AND LONG PROVIDED BRIEFING ON U.S. POLICY IN CURRENT TR SPOTS IN EA AND SOUTHWEST ASIA AND THE NEW MOOD OF AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION. ADMIRAL LONG BRIEFED MINISTER ON U.S. MILITARY SITUATION IN PACIFIC AND INDIAN OCEAN AREAS. AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK DISCUSSED CHINESE ATTITUDES TOWARD DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN ASIA AND THE STATE OF U.S.-PRC RELATIONS.

4. U.S. IMAGE: RAJARATNAM STATED HIS BY NOW WELL-REPORTED VIEW THAT THE SOVIETS ARE ON THE DEFENSIVE AND THAT THE U.S. SHOULD SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY TO INFLICT A SERIOUS POLITICAL DEFEAT ON THE RUSSIANS IN AN AREA OF PERIPHERAL INTEREST TO THEM. HE DESCRIBED THE PERCEPTION OF THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES THAT THERE HAS BEEN A STEADY EROSION OF U.S. PRESENCE AND POWER IN THIS REGION AND A SIGNIFICANT GROWTH OF RUSSIAN POWER. THIS IMAGE OF RUSSIAN INEVITABLY MAKES THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES UNWILLING TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED EXCEPT IN EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES, HE SAID. SHOULD THE CURRENT AMERICAN STANCE OF RENEWED VIGOR AND POWER BE SUSTAINED  
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OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS, YOU WILL FIND THIRD WORLD NATIONS MUCH MORE WILLING TO STAND WITH YOU, HE SAID. IT IS IMPORTANT TO CREATE AN IMAGE OF WESTERN RESURGENCE.

5. U.S.-PRC AND SOUTHEAST ASIA: WHILE THE VIEWS ABOVE HAVE BEEN STATED TO US ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS SINCE DECEMBER, RAJA ADDED SOMETHING NEW TO HIS VIEWS ON SOUTHEAST ASIA. HE STRONGLY URGED THAT THE U.S. DISPEL THE VIEW THAT THE PRC AND THE U.S. ARE DIVIDING THE WORLD ("A DIVISION OF LABOR") UP FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPPOSING SOVIET EXPANSIONISM. SOUTHEAST ASIA, ACCORDING TO THIS VIEW, IS A SPECIAL CHINESE SPHERE WITH AMERICAN INTEREST SECONDARY. RAJA SAID THIS VIEW IS HELD IN KUALA LUMPUR AND JAKARTA AND COULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF MAKING THE RUSSIANS MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THOSE COUNTRIES THAN THEY WOULD BE OTHERWISE. THE U.S. SHOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO SHOW THE DURABILITY AND STRENGTH OF AMERICAN INTEREST AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE REGION AS A FACTOR IMPORTANT IN ITSELF AND NOT JUST ANCILLARY TO CHINESE CONCERNS.

6. HOLBROOKE STATED UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT NO SUCH DIVISION OF LABOR ON SPHERES OF INTEREST EXISTS. WHILE THE PRC AND THE U.S. MAY SEE SOME ISSUES SIMILARLY AND TAKE INTO ACCOUNT EACH OTHER'S VIEWS, NO ONE CAN SAY THAT WE ARE WALKING AWAY FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA. IN FACT, ONE OF THE GREATEST FOREIGN POLICY SUCCESSES OF THE CARTER

ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN THE DRAMATIC GROWTH OF POSITIVE AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TIES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ASEAN. "I CAN'T STRESS TOO STRONGLY THAT WE ARE NOT GOING TO WALK AWAY FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA," HOLBROOKE SAID.

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## Message Attributes

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